



January 25, 2026

Mayor Eileen Higgins
Commissioner Damian Pardo
Commissioner Miguel Gabela
Commissioner Christine King
Commissioner Ralph Rosado
Commissioner Rolando Escalona

Miami City Hall
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, Florida 33133

To the Mayor and Commissioners,

I write to you as a Cuban-born, Miami-raised business owner and author. I am the founder of RLA Conservation, LLC, an internationally recognized conservation firm with offices in Miami and Los Angeles as well as the author of *Tropicana Nights: The Life and Times of the Legendary Cuban Nightclub* and a 2023 memoir on Cuban heritage and art restoration. My work in preservation of historic buildings has taken me around the world; nevertheless Miami—and its layered cultural memory—has always been my hometown and touchstone. Few buildings embody our city’s history, and our community’s aspirations, as powerfully as the Miami Marine Stadium. It is a place that carries the *cubanidad* that shaped my childhood.

The Marine Stadium is a world-class building, expressing the finest principles of international mid-century modernism. Unmistakably Cuban in spirit, it is a direct architectural descendant of Cuban landmarks like the Tropicana cabaret, a place etched into our Cuban exile community’s collective memory. Hilario Candela spent summers working with Tropicana’s architect Max Borges Jr. and often expressed that he drew deeply from Borges and other 1950s Cuban architects when conceiving the Stadium’s cantilevered roof. In this sense, the Marine Stadium can be said to be a continuation of the Cuban architectural tradition that was interrupted on the island by the Revolution but allowed to flourish here, in Miami. In its prime, the Stadium also marked a turning point for Miami, signaling the city’s evolution from a quiet resort town into a confident international center of sport, culture, and innovation.

Even during its years of abandonment, the Marine Stadium has been kept alive by street artists who claimed and respected its power. I organized a charrette with Candela and the graffiti community, sponsored by a Getty Foundation grant, awarded to study the Stadium at the same time as the Sydney Opera House and other buildings of international renown. I will never forget hearing the artists say that if the Stadium were preserved, they would be hands-off. That spoke volumes. The Marine Stadium is one of the few structures in Miami that truly belongs to everyone—across generations, languages, and backgrounds—while powerfully affirming the Cuban presence that helps define Miami’s soul. Today, as



Havana's architectural legacy is crumbling at an alarming rate, the Stadium stands as living witnesses to what was great about Cuba, and how that brilliance took root in Miami. We cannot allow ourselves to act with the same *descuido* toward *el edificio mas Cubano de los Estados Unidos*. I ask you, with respect and hope, to protect this landmark as a promise to future generations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rosa Lowinger'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosa Lowinger, Fellow American Institute for Conservation, Association for Preservation Technology,
American Academy in Rome
Founder, RLA Conservation, LLC